

Serial No. **10/576,880**
Amdt. dated June 30, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2009

Docket No. **P-0773**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claim 9 is added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Wollaber et al. (hereinafter “Wollaber”), U.S. Patent No. 5,335,721. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an indoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the indoor heat exchanger that generates a blowing force so that the indoor air passes through the indoor heat exchanger and an outdoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the outdoor heat exchanger that generates a centrifugal force to blow the outdoor air, wherein the outdoor centrifugal fan comprises a hub positioned so as to face the outdoor heat exchanger, wherein the hub is formed in a disc shape, and is connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades each having one end protruding from a surface of the hub, and disposed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to support the plurality of blades. Wollaber does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

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That is, Wollaber discloses an air conditioner including a tangential or cross flow blower 38 in an indoor compartment 24 and a tangential or cross flow blower 52 in an outdoor compartment 30. See, for example, Figure 2, 3, column 3, lines 24-26, and column 3, lines 39-41 of Wollaber. Tangential or cross flow blowers suck air into the blower in a radial direction of the hub, and discharge the sucked air in the radial direction of the hub. In contrast, independent claim 1 recites an indoor centrifugal fan and an outdoor centrifugal fan. Centrifugal fans suck air into the fan in an axial direction of the hub, and discharge the sucked air in a radial direction of the hub. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that tangential or cross flow blowers and centrifugal fans are not equivalent. Further, Wollaber neither discloses nor suggests an outdoor centrifugal fan comprising a hub positioned so as to face the outdoor heat exchanger, as specifically recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Wollaber should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 2, as well as added claim 9, are allowable over Wollaber at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Liang, U.S. Patent No. 3,404,539, in view of Wollaber. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an indoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the indoor heat exchanger that generates a blowing force so that the indoor air passes through the indoor heat exchanger and an outdoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the outdoor heat

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exchanger that generates a centrifugal force to blow the outdoor air, wherein the outdoor centrifugal fan comprises a hub positioned so as to face the outdoor heat exchanger, wherein the hub is formed in a disc shape, and is connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades each having one end protruding from a surface of the hub, and disposed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to support the plurality of blades. Liang and Wollaber, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, Liang discloses an air conditioning unit including a cross flow blower 12 in an evaporator portion 2 and a cross flow blower 36 in a condenser portion 3. See, for example, Figures 1, 2, column 3, lines 23-31, and column 3, lines 44-56 of Liang. As set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, cross flow blowers and centrifugal fans are not equivalent. Further, like Wollaber, Liang neither discloses nor suggests an outdoor centrifugal fan including a hub positioned so as to face the outdoor heat exchanger, as specifically recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 is allowable over Liang. Wollaber fails to overcome the deficiencies of Liang, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching the supporting ring coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to support the plurality of blades.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Liang and Wollaber should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 3, as well as added claim 9, are allowable over Liang and Wollaber

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at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wollaber, in view of Kang et al. (hereinafter “Kang”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0035021. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 5-8 are allowable over Wollaber at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Kang fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wollaber, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a condensed water dispersing device mounted at the outdoor centrifugal fan that disperses condensed water collected at a lower surface of the case to the outdoor heat exchanger (claim 5), wherein the condensed water dispersing device comprises a dispersion ring connected to the outdoor centrifugal fan so as to be rotated therewith to disperse the condensed water (claim 6), wherein the dispersion ring is connected to a hub of the outdoor centrifugal fan by the supporting ring (claim 7), and wherein the dispersion ring is respectively connected to the plurality of blades of the outdoor centrifugal fan by the supporting ring thus to form a ring shape (claim 8). Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5-8 over Wollaber and Kang should be withdrawn.

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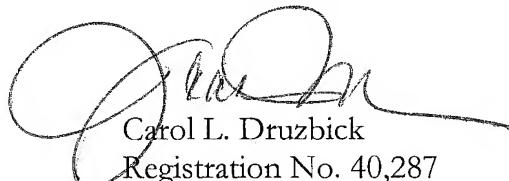
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CONCLUSION

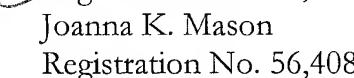
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 30, 2009

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